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Security Council

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Letter dated 4 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached the assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Denmark in June 2006 (see annex). This assessment was prepared under my responsibility following consultations with the other members of the Council.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ellen Margrethe **Løj**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 4 December 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Denmark (June 2006)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Denmark in June 2006, the Security Council addressed a wide range of issues, including the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cyprus, Iraq, Liberia and Lebanon. Security Council missions visited the Sudan and Chad as well as the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

During the month of June, the Council held 25 official meetings and conducted informal consultations on 10 occasions. It adopted 12 resolutions and 4 presidential statements. The President also made two statements to the press on behalf of the Council.

On 2 June, the President briefed the press on the work programme of the Council after its adoption. The President also held meetings with the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council, briefing them on the work of the Security Council.

Africa

Security Council mission to the Sudan and Chad

On 2 June, in informal consultations, before the Security Council's mission to the Sudan and Chad from 4 to 10 June, the Council received a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on the situation in the two countries concerned.

On the Sudan the emphasis was on the Council's determination to work with the Government of the Sudan, the African Union (AU) and other parties to assist in tackling the various problems confronting the Sudan, and in particular the importance of full and rapid implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement. The Council reiterated its support for a transition of the African Union's mission in Darfur to a United Nations operation with the agreement of the Government of the Sudan, while it called on the parties to work with the Government, the African Union, the United Nations, regional and international organizations and Member States in this regard. The Council voiced its concern that persisting violence in Darfur might further negatively affect the rest of the Sudan as well as the region, including the security of Chad and the Central African Republic. On the north-south peace process the Council focused on the progress of the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

On 15 June, at an open meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the representative of the United Kingdom, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, the Head of the Security Council mission to the Sudan and Chad. The briefing was supplemented by a statement by the representative of France, Jean-Marc de La Sablière, who jointly

led the visit to Chad, as well as a statement by the representative of the Congo, Basile Ikouebe, on the visit to the African Union's headquarters in Addis Ababa.

A public meeting of the Council on 29 June followed the issuance of the report of the Security Council mission to the Sudan and Chad (S/2006/433). At the meeting the representative of the Sudan expressed concern over the activities of the non-signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement both inside and outside of the Sudan. The representative of Chad expressed similar concerns over the activities of rebel movements within his country's territory.

Sudan

On 14 June, at an open meeting, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, briefed the Council and presented his second report under resolution 1593 (2005) on the investigation of the situation in Darfur. A private meeting, at which Council members made comments and asked questions immediately, followed the briefing. As agreed by the Council members, the delegation of the Sudan participated in the private meeting. In an exchange of views with the Prosecutor, the Council members noted with deep concern the seriousness of the crimes that had surfaced during the investigation process of the Court. They emphasized that close collaboration was needed between the Court and the Government of the Sudan as well as the African Union during the Court's investigations. The Prosecutor gave particular emphasis to the protection of witnesses as a prerequisite to the conduct of proper investigations within the Sudan. The Council took positive note of a statement by the representative of the Sudan to the effect that his Government would cooperate fully with the Court.

On 27 June, in informal consultations, and in the presence of the Secretary-General, the Council received a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, on the preliminary outcome of the recently concluded United Nations/AU assessment mission to Darfur. The expansion of the mandate of the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) in accordance with the Darfur Peace Agreement meant an urgent need to strengthen AMIS. A strengthening should be conducted with a view to a transfer of AMIS to a United Nations operation with a clear African identity and the agreement of the Government of the Sudan. The members strongly encouraged intensified dialogue with the Government on the issue in order to obtain its consent for a United Nations operation in Darfur. The Council looked forward to receiving the final report of the United Nations/AU assessment mission, as well as a report including the recommendations of the Secretary-General.

Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 2 June, in informal consultations, the Council received a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in preparation for the Security Council mission to Kinshasa from 10 to 12 June. The preparations for the elections were making good progress and the overall security situation was relatively calm. Negative forces continued to destabilize the country, especially in the eastern parts.

On 16 June, at an open meeting, the representative of France, Jean-Marc de La Sablière, who led the Security Council mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, briefed the Council about the visit.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 30 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1693 (2006), by which it extended until 30 September 2006 its authorization for a strengthened peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Council also called on all Congolese institutions and parties to ensure that the upcoming elections would be free, fair and peaceful and that the elections would be held in accordance with the timetable.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 2 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1682 (2006), by which it authorized an increase in the strength of the United Nations operation in Côte d'Ivoire of up to 1,500 additional troops until 15 December 2006.

Liberia

On 13 June, recognizing the need for newly vetted and trained Liberian security forces to assume greater responsibility for national security, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1683 (2006), lifting partially the arms embargo against Liberia.

On 16 June, in informal consultations, the Council received a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on recent developments in Liberia on the basis of the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2006/376). Since assuming office the new Government had made encouraging progress and the security situation was generally stable. The relative stability continued to be primarily anchored in the United Nations peacekeeping mission there. In accordance with its mandate, the Mission had apprehended and detained the former Liberian President, Charles Taylor, when he was handed over to the Government of Liberia by Nigerian authorities, and immediately transferred him to Freetown to the Special Court for Sierra Leone. During the consultations, the Council also heard a briefing by the Chairman of the Sanctions Committee for Liberia, the representative of Denmark, Ellen Margrethe Løj. The Chairman informed her colleagues about the Committee's consideration of the latest report of the Panel of Experts and the progress being made by the Liberians in meeting the criteria for lifting the diamond and timber sanctions.

On 20 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1689 (2006), extending the ban on the import of Liberian rough diamonds for another six months to allow for the establishment of an effective certificate of origin regime for such trade. Recognizing the Government's recent efforts in the timber sector, the Council decided not to renew the timber sanctions, but stated its intention to review the decision after 90 days and to reinstate the measures if forestry legislation had not been adopted at that time. The Council re-established the Panel of Experts.

Sierra Leone

On 16 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1688 (2006) regarding the trial of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. Determining that the continued presence of Charles Taylor in the subregion was a threat to international peace and security in the region, the resolution paved the way for the transfer of

Taylor to the Netherlands, where he would stand trial before the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

Somalia

On 8 June, in informal consultations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Tuliameni Kalomoh, briefed the Council on the situation in Somalia on the basis of the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2006/418). The Council expressed deep concern over the recent escalation of violence and urged all parties to resume dialogue with the transitional federal institutions and to strictly comply with the arms embargo and avoid any further destabilization. The Council reaffirmed its support for all reconciliatory efforts, particularly the efforts made by the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority for Development.

On 19 June, in informal consultations, the Council received a briefing from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, François Lonseny Fall, on his recent visit to the region. In view of the emergence of the Union of Islamic Courts, he outlined a number of scenarios for the near future in Somalia. The Council stressed the need for dialogue within the framework of the Transitional Federal Charter, and reiterated that upon receiving a national security and stabilization plan for Somalia as well as a detailed mission plan the Council would consider a limited exemption to the arms embargo.

Burundi

On 27 June, in informal consultations, the Council received a briefing by Acting Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Nureldin Satti, on the situation in Burundi, on the basis of the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2006/429). He described the positive progress in the peace negotiations between the Government of Burundi and the National Liberation Forces and the gradual disengagement of the United Nations peacekeeping presence in Burundi.

On 30 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1692 (2006) extending until 31 December 2006 the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB). The Council also welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General to establish a United Nations office to replace the mission by the end of the six-month period and extended until 30 September 2006 the Secretary-General's authority to temporarily redeploy capacity from ONUB to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Asia

Timor-Leste

On 13 June, the Council held a public meeting on the situation in Timor-Leste, at which the Council was briefed by the Secretary-General, his Special Envoy for Timor-Leste, Ian Martin, and representatives of Timor-Leste and the four countries that had responded to Timor-Leste's request for police and military assistance, namely, Australia, Portugal, New Zealand and Malaysia. The Secretary-General informed the Council that he was asking the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take the lead in establishing an independent special inquiry commission to review recent incidents which had contributed to the crisis, as

requested by Timor-Leste. The Special Envoy reported on his recent mission to Timor-Leste, where he had sensed broad support from various parts of the population, including the Government, for, among others, a robust United Nations police force, training of the national police, significant assistance for the elections to be held in 2007, continued United Nations support for reconciliation among the parties, and an independent inquiry into recent events.

On 20 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1690 (2006), extending the mandate of the United Nations Office in Timor-Leste for an additional two months with a view to planning for the future role of the United Nations.

Middle East

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

On 6 June, the Council received a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the basis of the latest report of the Secretary-General concerning the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) (S/2006/333). The Secretary-General recommended extending the mandate of the Force for six months.

On 13 June, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1685 (2006), extending until 31 December 2006 the mandate of UNDOF. In a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/26) the Council expressed its general concern about the situation in the Middle East.

International Independent Investigation Commission

On 14 June, at a public meeting, the Council heard a briefing by Serge Brammertz, Commissioner of the International Independent Investigation Commission, on progress in the inquiry into the murder of the former Prime Minister of Lebanon, Rafiq Hariri, and 22 others in February 2005. He presented his fourth report (S/2006/375) and stated that the investigation had further developed, with 24 individual projects currently under way, primarily in the technical field (forensic issues, telecommunications). The Commission was working on establishing a unifying theory on the planning and execution of the crime. The level of assistance to the Commission provided by the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period had generally been satisfactory. Moreover, interaction with the Lebanese authorities continued to be excellent at all levels. The meeting was followed by informal consultations. The members of the Council were generally in favour of a continuation of technical assistance from the Commission to the Lebanese authorities in their investigation of 14 other attacks that had occurred in Lebanon since October 2004. Moreover, the members of the Council supported an extension of the mandate of the Commission for a further year.

On 15 June, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1686 (2006) extending until 15 June 2007 the mandate of the International Independent Investigation Commission. The Commission was requested to continue to report to the Council on the progress of the investigation on a quarterly basis, or at any other time it deemed appropriate.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 21 June, at an open meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahim Gambari, gave the Council a briefing on the situation in the Middle East. He described heightened tension and increasing violence, both among Palestinians and in the conflict with Israel. Sixty-four Palestinians and one Israeli had been killed during the reporting period. The violence had taken a particularly severe toll on Palestinian civilians in Gaza. In spite of the continuing violence, there had been a few positive steps taken to de-escalate what remained a very volatile situation overall. Regarding Lebanon, there had been an outbreak of violence across the Blue Line on 28 May. However, in the period following, the Blue Line had remained calm. In informal consultations following the briefing, the members of the Council regretted the large death toll and the parties were reminded of their obligations under international humanitarian law.

On 30 June, the Council held a public meeting on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question. The Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, who recalled the recent events, beginning with the Palestinian militant attack that had led to the abduction of a member of the Israel Defense Forces and the subsequent Israeli military incursions into Gaza. She urged all parties to exercise restraint and act with wisdom, and in conformity with international law. Corporal Gilad Shalit should be released and the Palestinian Authority should act to stop indiscriminate rocket attacks against Israel. Meanwhile, Palestinian civilians should not pay the price for those actions, and Israel should cease the destruction of civilian infrastructure, ensure the protection of civilians and allow the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

During the discussion that followed, in which nearly 40 speakers participated, representatives called for the immediate and unconditional release of Gilad Shalit and urged Israel to exercise the utmost restraint in the current crisis. The detention of elected members of the Palestinian Government and legislature was of particular concern to several delegations, as was the protection of civilians, both Palestinian and Israeli. They called for a resumption of the peace process, warning that further escalation could jeopardize the stability of the entire region.

Iraq

United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission

On 8 June, in informal consultations, the Council heard a briefing by the Acting Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Demetrius Perricos, on the basis of the latest report of UNMOVIC (S/2006/342). The Commission had completed the summary of the Compendium and had been commended by the College of Commissioners. Now UNMOVIC was seeking to release the summary as a report to the Council. Furthermore, the Government of Iraq intended to accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention. UNMOVIC provided the Government of Iraq on 30 May with the adequate documentation for the Government to proceed with its plans to accede to the Convention.

Multinational force and United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

On 15 June, at an open meeting, the Council heard a statement on the situation in Iraq by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Hoshyar Zebari, and a statement on the activities of the multinational force in Iraq by the Representative of the United States of America, John Bolton. The Council heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Angela Kane, on the basis of the latest report of the Secretary-General on the activities of UNAMI (S/2006/360). After the briefing, the Council held a private meeting with the participation of the Foreign Minister of Iraq.

In a statement to the press, the President indicated that the members of the Council had agreed upon the continuation of the mandate of the multinational force in Iraq in accordance with Security Council resolution 1637 (2005) and at the request of the newly elected Government of Iraq. The members of the Council also agreed upon the continuation of the relevant arrangements for the Development Fund for Iraq and the International Advisory and Monitoring Board in accordance with resolution 1637 (2005). In addition, in the statement to the press, the members of the Council welcomed the completion of the formation of the constitutionally elected Government in Iraq. They urged all Iraqis to participate peacefully in the political process. They reiterated their encouragement to the new Government to work tirelessly to promote national reconciliation and an atmosphere in which sectarianism was rejected.

Europe

Cyprus

On 2 June, in informal consultations, the Council heard a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations on the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) on the basis of the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2006/315). He summarized the key elements and noted the Secretary-General's recommendation that UNFICYP be extended in its current configuration for a further period of six months. The Council members broadly agreed with the Secretary-General's assessment that the situation on the island remained calm and stable, and they supported the work of UNFICYP. All Council members supported the Secretary-General's recommendation to extend the mandate of UNFICYP until 15 December 2006.

On 15 June, resolution 1687 (2006) to this effect was adopted unanimously.

Kosovo, Serbia

On 20 June, the Council held a public meeting on the situation in Kosovo, Serbia. The President of the Coordination Centre of Serbia and Montenegro and of the Republic of Serbia for Kosovo and Metohija, Sanda Raskovic-Ivic, participated in the meeting.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Søren Jessen-Petersen, introduced the latest report of the Secretary-General (S/2006/361) and pointed to progress on standards implementation in the reporting period and a demonstration of political will and capacity to accelerate the momentum in

implementing standards on the part of the new political leaders in Pristina. It was noted, however, that real reconciliation depended on the hearts and minds of the population. Further progress was needed, in particular in the area of the rule of law and within the judiciary in general. The Special Representative regretted that the Kosovo Serb representatives had chosen not to participate in the provisional institutions in Kosovo.

The President of the Coordination Centre presented the position of Serbia and Montenegro to the Council, underlining that Belgrade did not agree with the relatively positive assessment of standards implementation by the Secretary-General and his Special Representative. The situation in Kosovo from Belgrade's point of view was characterized by ethnically motivated violence against non-Albanians, corruption and organized crime. She did concur with the Secretary-General that it was problematic that the Kosovo Serbs did not participate in the provisional institutions in Kosovo. However, the participation offered by the Kosovo Albanians could not be described as meaningful participation.

Other issues

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 3 June, in a statement to the press from the President of the Council, the members of the Council condemned in the strongest possible terms the attack against employees of the Russian Embassy in Baghdad on 3 June 2006, which had resulted in the killing of one embassy employee and the kidnapping of four others, including a diplomat.

On 29 June, in a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/29), the Council in the strongest possible terms condemned the kidnapping and execution by a terrorist group of members of the Russian Diplomatic mission in Iraq.

International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda

On 7 June, at a public meeting, the Presidents and Prosecutors of the International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda briefed the Council on the implementation of their completion strategies. Despite their efforts in that respect some indictees remained at large, which represented a serious obstacle. The members of the Council encouraged all States to cooperate fully and the Tribunals to continue their efforts to speed up the trials. Furthermore, members encouraged the two Tribunals to continue their strategies for the completion of their work, and considered that the transfer of Ante Gotovina to the Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia represented a notable step, and that the countries of the region must continue to cooperate closely to bring the other accused before the Tribunals. The President of the Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia also briefed the Council on the continuing investigation into the deaths of Slobodan Milosevic and Milaw Babic and the administration of the external audit conducted by independent experts.

Strengthening International Law: Rule of Law and the Maintenance of International Peace and Security

On 23 June, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Per Stig Møller, presided over an open debate on the strengthening of international law: rule of law

and the maintenance of international peace and security. The President of the International Court of Justice, Judge Rosalyn Higgins, and the United Nations Legal Counsel, Nicolas Michel, also participated in the open debate. At the end of the debate the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/28). The members of the Council reaffirmed their commitment to international law, and they stressed that they were committed to and actively supported the peaceful settlement of disputes, including by resorting to the International Court of Justice. They indicated that justice and the rule of law was an indispensable element for lasting peace, and that the Security Council had an important role to play in the fight against impunity. The members of the Council considered sanctions an important tool in the maintenance and restoration of international peace and security and indicated that they were committed to ensuring that fair and clear procedures existed for placing individuals and entities on sanctions lists and for removing them.

Protection of civilians in armed conflict

On 28 June, the Council held an open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland, briefed the Council on the current situation of the many civilians affected by armed conflict in all regions of the world. He noted that there were signs of progress in efforts to better protect civilians caught in conflict, but stressed that the numbers of innocent civilians who continued to be killed and who lived with the constant threat of violence were unacceptable.

Admission of new members

On 21 June, the Council by acclamation adopted resolution 1691 (2006), recommending to the General Assembly that the Republic of Montenegro be admitted as a Member of the United Nations. In a presidential statement (S/PRST/2006/27), the Council noted with great satisfaction the Republic of Montenegro's solemn commitment to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter and to fulfil all the obligations therein.